the Standard Input Output Norms (SION) published by the Director General of Foreign Trade in the Handbook of Procedures (Vol .2). The Standard Input Output Norms facilitate issue of Duty Free Licences under the Duty Exemption Scheme speedily and on uniform basis as per the financial limits prescribed under the Export and Import Policy. As on 31.3.99 there were 4826 such notified norms belonging to different product groups.

Owing to the rapid scientific and technological developments and changing international trade scenario, the exercise of standardisation of Input Output Norms is a continuous and on going process. During the current licensing year of 1999-2000 (upto the period of 31.1.2000), six more Public Notices have been issued notifying 298 fresh Standard Input Output Norms. Vide Public Notice No. 50 (RE-99/1997-2002 dated 2.2.2000, some more Standard Input Output Norms have been fixed besides amending a few of the existing norms.

The details of new Input output Norms fixed and the amendments to the existing norms are given in the Annexures 'A', 'B', C' and 'D' to the Public Notice No. 50(RE-99)/1997-2002 dated 2.2.2000, issued by the Ministry of Commerce, which has been notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-I, Section I, copies of which are also available in the Parliament Library for reference.

Sectorwise break-up of new Norms added vide aforementioned Public Notice and amendments to the existing norms are as under:-

		New Norms	Amendments
1.	Chemicals	17	22
2.	Engineering	14	16
3.	Textile	01	01
4.	Plastic	—	01
	Total	32	40

Rate of Industrial Production

†1068. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various institutions have estimated that the rate of industrial production would be six per cent in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the estimate of Government regarding growth rate of industrial

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the estimate of Government regarding growth rate of industrial production;

(c) whether Government had fixed the target to enhance the growth rate for the current year; and

(d) if so, the target fixed in this regard togetherwith norms to fix this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in their Annual Report released on 23.08.1999 have stated that the industrial production should increase at the rate of about 7.0 per cent, going by the indication of industrial recovery in the first three months.

(b) Based on the past trends, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) have estimated that GDP for mining, manufacturing and electricity during 1999-2000 is expected to show growth rates of 0.7%, 7.2% and 7.6% respectively the combined weighted average is expected to be 6.5%

(c) and (d) The Government have not fixed the target for the industrial growth rate for the current year.

Millennium Round of Trade Negotiations of WTO

1069. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to face the 'millennium' round of trade negotiations of the WTO; and

(b) whether Government have constituted the negotiating team taking into consideration the previous experience at URUGUAY ROUND AND GATT?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Government's approach to the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, popularly known as the ""millennium round" held in Seattle, USA, during 30th November—3rd December, 1999 was evolved on the basis of consultations with the major stakeholders, including industry, trade experts, civil society, national level political parties and trade unions. In depth studies by reasearch institutions were commissioned to give back-up support to our approach. Diplomatic initiatives were also undertaken to obtain the support of likeminded countries. Numerous proposals outlining our concerns were circulated in the General Council of WTO and other multilateral fora to garner support for our position. These were